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SENATE MEMORIAL 46

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY
Steve Komadina

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
TO CONSIDER A COORDINATED, COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF INNOVATIVE
HEALTH CARE REFORM INITIATIVES.

WHEREAS, health care expenditures continue to impact state
and federal budgets as well as the cost of goods and services;
and

WHEREAS, every individual carries a responsibility for
that individual's health care management through wellness and
prevention measures; and

WHEREAS, chronic problems such as obesity, hypertension,
diabetes and depression are often preventable or at least
treatable at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, wellness and prevention programs can lead to
lifestyle behavior changes that are key to decreasing health

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1 care costs; and

2 WHEREAS, use of tobacco products continues to impact
3 health care costs adversely while tobacco settlement proceeds
4 are used on initiatives other than tobacco research and
5 cessation programs; and

6 WHEREAS, employers and employees continue to pay rising
7 insurance premiums, often to offset uncompensated care costs
8 and lower public program reimbursement levels; and

9 WHEREAS, tax incentives can provide initiatives for
10 employers, employees and individuals to obtain appropriate
11 insurance for broad or specialized coverage as well as to
12 increase coverage and thus spread the risk among larger groups
13 of insured individuals; and

14 WHEREAS, the number of health care profession graduates
15 from New Mexico colleges and universities has not kept pace
16 with the attrition of health care professionals or with the
17 demands of a growing population; and

18 WHEREAS, primary care clinics throughout the state provide
19 an invaluable service for patients with limited or no access or
20 coverage in rural and underserved areas; and

21 WHEREAS, consumer-driven, market-based health care reform
22 efforts provide initiatives that can be more readily
23 implemented and tested than public programs requiring extensive
24 legislative or rulemaking procedures; and

25 WHEREAS, information technology and telecommunications

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1 offer an ability to streamline billing; claims processing;
2 reimbursement; medical records storage and retrieval; and
3 electronic prescriptions, databases and registries; as well as
4 health care delivery and interfaces to remote and underserved
5 areas; and

6 WHEREAS, the joint state-federal medicaid program
7 continues to take a disproportionate amount of state and
8 federal budget expenditures without a corresponding improvement
9 in the health care profile of covered individuals;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative health and human services
12 committee be requested to review health care reform from a
13 broad perspective that includes wellness and prevention
14 measures and initiatives; early diagnosis and treatment of
15 chronic diseases; tax incentives to assist more employers and
16 individuals in purchasing insurance; expansion of medical
17 school, nursing school and other health care profession schools
18 to increase the number of graduates entering the health care
19 work force; funding for primary health care clinics that
20 provide primary and preventive care to uninsured persons and in
21 underserved areas; market-based reforms that provide consumers
22 with choices that meet their respective needs; development of
23 information technology resources that increases consistency of
24 information, claims and reimbursement among payers, providers
25 and patients; medicaid reforms that recognize the cost-

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1 effectiveness of programs for women and children while ensuring
2 that the most vulnerable persons, the elderly and disabled,
3 receive assistance through innovative and effective programs;
4 and, in conjunction with the tobacco settlement revenue
5 oversight committee, the study of tobacco-related illnesses and
6 efforts to reduce tobacco use, particularly among the youth;
7 and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative health and
9 human services committee be requested to provide an appropriate
10 forum to address these issues in a manner that allows the
11 committee to consider and recommend broad and coordinated
12 reform initiatives and work in conjunction with the tobacco
13 settlement revenue oversight committee to address tobacco-
14 related issues; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the legislative health and human services
17 committee and the tobacco settlement revenue oversight
18 committee.